

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended) A protector for a post, the post having front and rear sides and a base portion secured to a support surface. ~~{A post protector to be positioned around the base of a vertical post, having a front and rear portion, for preventing moving objects such as material handling equipment from striking the post secured to a support surface and for protecting the post protector itself, and any such moving object, from destruction of one by the other}~~ comprising: a barrier adapted to be positioned horizontally around ~~{the front and adjacent the rear of the post}~~ and spaced away from all sides ~~{of the base}~~ of the post providing a space between said barrier and the post to protect the base portion of said post from being struck by a moving object adjacent the support surface; said barrier having contiguous front and rear portions defining a certain size interior enclosure adapted to enclose the post ~~{in the interior formed thereby to}~~ and provide said complete spacing of said barrier away from the post; said barrier rear portion having ~~[[has]]~~ an extended support portion extending horizontally rearwardly beyond the post; said barrier also having securing means interior thereto and adjacent said barrier extended rear portion and the post for securing said barrier to the support surface rearwardly of the post for retention reaction against horizontal deflection of said barrier; and said barrier having resistively flexible oblique vertical bends between said front panel portion ~~{portions}~~ and said ~~{respective}~~ rear support portion ~~{portions adjacent extended side support portions}~~ whereby when said barrier is deflected rearwardly said rear support

portion[[s]] will resiliently deflect outwardly away from the post against the retention reaction of said rearward ~~{and forward}~~ securing means.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8. (currently amended) A vertical barrier as defined in claim 1 having ~~{a securing means between said barrier rearwardly extending portions with}~~ a central beam portion ~~{at the bottom of said rearward barrier portions}~~ positioned totally within said rearwardly extending barrier portion ~~{between}~~ and adjacent the most rearward portions thereof and secured thereto, ~~{to respective rearwardly extended barrier portions}, {and}~~ said central beam portion being adapted to be secured to the support surface ~~{floor}~~ by the securing means forwardly of said ~~{rear-most}~~ most rearward portions of said rearwardly extended barrier portion[[s]] to provide a resistive force around said ~~{rearward}~~ securing means when said barrier front portion[[s are]] is deflected rearwardly, whereby when said barrier is deflected rearwardly said rear support portion[[s]] will resiliently deflect

outwardly away from the post against the retention reaction of said ~~{rearward and forward}~~ securing means.

Claim 9. (currently amended) A post protector for protecting a ~~[[the]]~~ base portion of a post standing on a support surface comprising:

a front ~~{vertical}~~ member and at least one rear ~~{vertical}~~ member having vertically disposed segments integrally connected to ~~[[the]]~~ each other extending upwardly from the support surface ~~{and disposed}~~ around and spaced from all sides of the post,

the front ~~{vertical}~~ member including

~~{upright segments having}~~ at least one support surface engagement portion extending intermediate the ~~{upright}~~ segments and the post and engaging the support surface between the ~~{upright}~~ segments and the post, and

flexible bending elements in the ~~{upright}~~ segments moveable away from the post along with vertically disposed segments of the front and rear members beside the post when a portion of the front ~~{vertical}~~ member is deflected toward the post, and

the rear ~~{vertical}~~ member having a support surface engagement portion ~~{spaced apart from the post and}~~ engaging the support surface ~~{at a distance from the post}~~ on the side of the post opposite from the support surface engagement portion of the front ~~{vertical}~~ member.